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**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

10           1.       A cultured embryonic stem (ES) cell, wherein the genome of said ES  
cell comprises a homozygous disruption of the P<sub>2X7</sub> receptor, and wherein a cultured  
macrophage differentiated from said ES cell exhibits a phenotype of reduced ATP-  
stimulated post-translational processing of interleukin-1 $\alpha$  (IL-1 $\alpha$ ), IL-1 $\beta$ , or IL-18, or  
reduced ATP-stimulated IL-6 production, or reduced ATP-stimulated intracellular  
accumulation of macromolecules.

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2.       The cultured ES cell of claim 1, wherein said cell is human.

3.       The cultured ES cell of claim 1, wherein said cell is murine.

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